



**20 CRUSHED TO DEATH AS GIRDER  
LAUNCHER FALLS ON THEM IN THANE**  
The accident happened during the construction of a viaduct for the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Thane dist on Tuesday morning

**700 TONNES FELL FROM A HEIGHT OF 35 METRES**  
The girder launcher and a segment launcher (crane), weighing 700 tonnes, came crashing down from a height of 35 metres, the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation said in a release. The deceased include labourers, supervisors and engineers. Three persons who were injured are currently undergoing treatment at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital at Kalva in Thane

**FIR AGAINST CONTRACTORS FOR NEGLIGENCE**  
■ The Thane police have registered an FIR against two contractors for causing death by negligence. The 2.28 km-long viaduct is being constructed by Navayuga Engineering and VSL India Private Ltd, Singapore  
■ Maharashtra govt announced ₹5 lakh assistance each for the families of the deceased, while PM Narendra Modi announced ₹2 lakh ex-gratia

**88**  
PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES IN ACCIDENTS ON THE EXPRESSWAY IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VAYANWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOTHIMKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • DHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TRINELVELY • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLI • GUDDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUSSUR • KALABURGI



## WAGAH INDIA: MEET AND GRIT

Pakistan's hockey team at the Wagah border before boarding a flight to Chennai for the Asian Champions Trophy on Tuesday. Team captain Muhammad Saqlain said they hope sport would mend India-Pakistan bilateral relations | P11 | P1

## SC summons Manipur DGP

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Manipur DGP to be present in the courtroom on August 7 at 2 pm, after its scathing observation that there was absolute breakdown of law and order in the state for two months from May to July.

Examining the preliminary data on FIRs, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said the state police is incapable of investigating and has lost control of the situation. He found the probe tardy and the police force too lethargic. There was considerable lapse of time between occurrence of the strip-parade of two women on May 4 and the registration of the FIR.



Locals gather near houses burnt down in violence-hit Imphal on Tuesday | P11

recording of statements of witnesses and arrest of accused.

Referring to the statements of two Kuki-Zo women in the viral video case who indicated that they were handed over to the mob by the police, the CJI

asked if the DGP cared to find out whether those police personnel were interrogated.

The state government in its report said 6,523 FIRs had been registered from May 3 to July 30, out of which 11 pertained to offences against women and children. So far, 252 people have been arrested in the 11 cases.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Centre was willing to refer the 11 FIRs to the CBI. Considering the formation of a committee on the rehabilitation and supervision of the probes, the bench asked the state to suggest the name of the person to whom the investigation could be entrusted since it was impractical to transfer all FIRs to the CBI.

## Cleric killed, Haryana violence toll rises to 5

Arson attack on mosque in Gurugram past midnight; 70 detained

UJWAL JALALI AND HARPREET BAJWA @ New Delhi/Chandigarh

FIVE persons were killed and over 50 others injured in Haryana, including a cleric and a couple of policemen, after communal clashes in Nuh and Gurugram that began on Monday. In Gurugram, a mosque was set on fire and its cleric murdered by a mob past midnight.

Five persons have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the arson attack on the Anjuman Jama mosque in Sector 57 of Gurugram. The dead cleric was identified as Maulana Saad (26).

Sources in the Gurugram Police said the mob reached the mosque past midnight, opened fire on its inmates and set it ablaze. The cleric succumbed to his injuries after being admitted to a local hospital.

Apart from Sector 57, there were reports of sporadic violence at various locations in Gurugram throughout the day. In the afternoon, a mob set an eatery on fire and vandalised adjoining shops in Badshahpur. Reports said the mob specifically targeted shops of a particular community, ransacked them and chanted religious slogans.

There were also reports of some shanties being set on fire on Kadarapur road, but there was no official confirmation. In



Police personnel outside the mosque that was set ablaze in Gurugram in the wee hours of Tuesday | P11

### Police force beefed up to maintain peace

Sixteen companies of the Central Police Force have been stationed in Nuh and its surrounding areas. In addition, 30 companies of the Haryana Police have been deployed. Additional police forces have been called from neighbouring districts as well to maintain peace in the region, said Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

Sector 66, several eateries and scrap shops were either ransacked or set on fire. Besides, some meat shops were vandalised near Pataudi Chowk.

The overall situation in Gurugram remained tense.

Earlier in the day, peace committee meetings were held in Nuh and Gurugram's Sohna town where senior members of both the communities were asked to help identify the accused and restore social harmony. In all, about 70 people have been detained and 44 cases registered so far. As many as

125 private vehicles, eight police vehicles and three emergency vehicles were set afire during the clashes.

The VHP decided to hold protests across India on Wednesday and demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the attacks.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar claimed the attack appeared to be part of a larger conspiracy, as the VHP's Samajik Yatra in Nuh had been taking place annually for the past several years without trouble.

## UDUPI VOYEURISM

Siddu rejects BJP demand for SIT probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday rejected BJP's demand for a SIT inquiry into Udupi's voyeurism case. "There is no question of handing over the case to SIT," he told reporters here.

He said police have registered a suo motu case and a DySP rank officer is investigating it. To a query, he said NCW member Khushbu Sundar had stated that there was no hidden camera in the college washroom. "Let the inquiry continue and once the report is out, action will be taken," he added.

Siddaramaiah denied that the government had taken the case lightly and said if it was so, a case would not have been registered.

With regard to moral policing in DK, he said such things will not be tolerated. "We have directed the police to take strong actions against those indulging in moral policing. Things will fall in line soon," he said. On Sowjanya murder case, he indicated that the state may appeal before the high court against the CBI court order. The government will take stern action against people spreading fake messages on social media.

On implementation of Kasturirangan report, he said, "It is for the Centre to take a decision. We are committed to protecting the environment."

## CA aspirant gangraped in city, 3 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Kodigehalli police have arrested three men, including a dance teacher, on charges of gang-raping a woman for over a year by blackmailing her that they would post videos of their private moments on social media. Andy George (27) is the prime accused, while his friends Santhosh and Shashi, both aged around 30, are the other accused. They are residents of Kodigehalli and Vidyaranyapura.

The police said the 25-year-old survivor, who is preparing for the chartered accountant exam, had come in contact with Andy George on a social media platform three years ago. They fell in love and also had a physical relationship. George had allegedly video-recorded their private moments. But around one-and-a-half years ago, the victim broke up with George after he started extorting money from her using the videos.

"Later, he started seeking sexual favours from her by threatening to upload their videos on social media. The scared victim consented to his demands. Taking advantage, George also forced her to sleep with his friends Santhosh and Shashi. They too recorded their acts and sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions since June 2022," the police said.

Recently, the woman decided not to fall prey to their demands anymore. George, who was irked by her refusal, uploaded the videos on social media. On July 19, she filed a complaint with the Kodigehalli police. On the same day, the three accused were arrested. The police seized the mobile phones and a laptop from the accused.

DGP (North-East) Laxmi Prasad said the accused have been booked for gangrape, extortion and under provisions of the Information Technology Act.

## K'taka to have new energy policy soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TO reduce transmission and distribution losses and decentralise power generation and distribution, the Energy Department is working on a new energy policy where renewable energy, preferably solar, will be generated near substations and added to the grid for distribution locally.

Energy Minister KJ George said on Tuesday that officials of the department, including engineers, have been given the task of preparing the policy. The aim of the new policy is to help consumers reduce their financial burden. All sources of green energy - solar, wind

and hydrogen - will be tapped. "We are trying to reduce the cost of power generation and distribution. We have told industries and other big consumers to install solar panels on their premises to generate power and supply surplus energy to the power grid. The policy will be sent to the cabinet for approval at the earliest," he said.

George said as suggested by Dy CM DK Shivakumar, solar power generation at Pavagada near Tumakuru can be increased by 10,000 MW. Talks with farmers on leasing their land for the project are on. Land around substations for setting up green energy units will also be taken on lease, he added.

On the new policy, Addition-

al Chief Secretary (Energy) Gaurav Gupta told *TNIE* that there are around 500 substations where green energy could be generated. Land has to be identified for setting up solar panels. Engineers of the department will study various models available in the market. Pilot locations will be identified to take up this project. The aim is to reduce the pressure on the grids and localise power generation, he added.

An official said compared to various sources of renewable energy, the most suitable is solar. A minimum of 20MW of power can be generated. On the waste to energy plant at Bidadi, George said it will be ready by September.



### Gruha Jyothi: No power bills for 1.42cr consumers

Bengaluru: The zero bill for energy consumed under the Gruha Jyothi scheme kicked in on Tuesday. Energy Minister KJ George said that 1.42 crore consumers will not pay power bills henceforth. In many districts, including Bengaluru, officials from various energy supply companies handed over zero bills to consumers on Tuesday. P1

## EXPRESS READ

### Modi shares stage with Sharad Pawar in Pune

Pune: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday shared the stage with NCP chief Sharad Pawar at Lokmanya Tilak National Award ceremony in Pune. Before the ceremony commenced, the two leaders exchanged jovial banter with Pawar patting Modi's back, as the NCP chief's estranged nephew and Maharashtra DyCM Ajit Pawar looked on | P10

### VISL to resume operations from Aug 10

Shivamogga: MP BY Raghavendra has said that SAIL will restart operations at Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL) at Bhadravathi near here. The bar mill operations at the plant will begin on August 10. Primary milling work will start later | P5

## A PERFECT SLINGSHOT

## Chandrayaan 3 now headed towards Moon

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

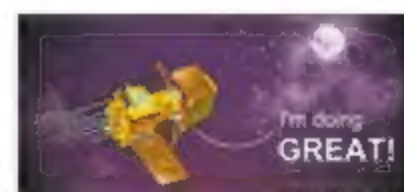
ISRO scientists performed the Trans Lunar Injection (TLI) by firing Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft's onboard thrusters to send it towards the lunar gravity field between 12 am and 1 am on Tuesday.

The spacecraft, which completed its earth orbits, is now on its way to the moon after a perfect slingshot. The space-

craft was launched on July 14 from Sriharikota.

Now the propulsion module will travel in a straight path to reach the moon's lunar path. "As Chandrayaan 3 mission moves into its next phase, the Lunar-Orbit Insertion (LOI) is planned for August 5," ISRO said.

On August 5, the propulsion module's thrusters will be fired again to enter lunar orbit. It



will make seven progressively lower orbits around the moon before obtaining a circular orbit of 100 km, in its seventh orbit. It will then release the lander module on August 23 or

24 to attempt a soft-landing. If successful, India will be the first to do so near the lunar south pole.

"A successful perigee-firing performed at ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network). ISRO has injected the spacecraft into the translunar orbit. Next stop: the Moon," ISRO tweeted after the successful firing.

CONTINUED ON P5